

B. Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for validating a credit card over a wireless data network, the apparatus comprising:

a wireless communication gateway in communication with a wireless data network, the gateway configured for processing credit card validation data received from an external network and for sending a credit card validation reply message to a wireless device in communication with the wireless data network in response to receiving a credit card validation request message from the wireless device, the request message including credit card information for identifying a credit card to be validated;

wherein the gateway comprises a database for storing the credit card validation reply message; and

wherein the database has a directory structure for associating the wireless device with the credit card validation reply message.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway transmits the credit card validation request message over the external network to a credit card validation service provider for processing the credit card information.

Claim 5 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the external network is the Internet.

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the credit card validation request message is a text message.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the credit card validation request message is sent via e-mail to a predetermined validation e-mail address.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the credit card information is provided in a subject portion of the e-mail message.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the credit card information includes a credit card number of the credit card to be validated.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the credit card information includes a credit card expiration date of the credit card to be validated.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the credit card information includes an identifier associated with the credit card to be validated.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the credit card validation reply message is a text message.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the credit card validation reply message is sent via e-mail to the wireless device.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless device is a pager.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless device is interfaced to a keypad.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless device is interfaced to a credit card swipe reader.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of validating a credit card over a wireless data network, the method comprising:

sending a first credit card validation request message to a wireless communication gateway in communication with a wireless data network from a wireless device in communication with the wireless data network, the gateway configured for processing credit card validation data received from an external network, the first request message including credit card information for identifying a credit card to be validated;

sending a second credit card validation request message and the credit card information from the gateway over the external network in communication with the gateway to a credit card information validation service provider for processing the credit card information;

receiving by the gateway a first credit card validation reply message from the credit card validation service provider over the external network; and

sending a second credit card validation reply message from the gateway to the wireless device;

storing the first credit card validation reply message in a database associated with the gateway; and

associating a second wireless device with the first credit card validation reply message in a directory structure of the database.

Claims 18 and 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising storing the second credit card validation reply message ~~on~~in a database associated with the gateway.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 20, further comprising associating a second wireless device with the second credit card validation reply message ~~on~~in a directory structure of the database.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending the second request message from the gateway over an external network in communication with the gateway for processing the credit card information further comprises transmitting the second request message to the Internet.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending a first credit card validation request message further comprises sending a text message.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending a second credit card validation request message further comprises sending the credit card information via e-mail to a predetermined validation e-mail address.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein sending credit card information further comprises sending the credit card validation information in a subject portion of the e-mail message.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending credit card information further comprises sending a credit card number of the credit card to be validated.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending credit card information further comprises sending a credit card expiration date of the credit card to be validated.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending credit card information further comprises sending an identifier associated with the credit card to be validated.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending a first credit card validation reply message further comprises sending a text message.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending a second credit card validation reply message further comprises sending an e-mail message to the wireless device.

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending a first credit card validation request message from a wireless device further comprises sending the first credit card validation request message from a pager.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending a second credit card validation reply message to a wireless device further comprises sending the second credit card validation reply message to a pager.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein sending a first credit card validation request message further comprises sending a first credit card validation message that is independent of a credit card service provider validation process.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 33, wherein software applications for processing credit card information for identifying a credit card to be validated operate independently of the credit card service provider validation process.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A method for validating a credit card over a wireless data network, the method comprising:

processing credit card information associated with a credit card to be validated at a wireless communication gateway in communication with a wireless data network, the gateway configured for processing credit card validation data received from an external network, the gateway sending a credit card validation reply message to a wireless device in communication with the wireless network in response to receiving a credit card validation request message from the wireless device, the request message including the credit card information for identifying the credit card to be validated;

wherein, the credit card information is processed at the gateway by a software application developed independently of external credit card validation processes provided remotely from the gateway; and

storing the credit card validation reply message in a database associated with the gateway;

wherein storing further comprises storing the credit card validation reply message in a database that includes a directory structure for associating the wireless device with the credit card validation reply message.

Claims 36 and 37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, further comprising transmitting the credit card validation request message from the gateway over the external network to the credit card validation service provider for processing the credit card information.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 38, wherein transmitting the credit card validation request message further comprises transmitting over the Internet.

Claim 40 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein processing the credit card validation request message further comprises processing a text message.

Claim 41 (Original): The method of claim 35, further comprising sending the credit card validation request message via e-mail to a predetermined validation e-mail address.

Claim 42 (Original): The method of claim 41, further comprising providing the credit card information in a subject portion of the e-mail message.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 35, further comprising providing a credit card number of the credit card to be validated in the credit card information.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 35, further comprising providing a credit card expiration date of the credit card to be validated in the credit card information.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 35, further comprising providing an identifier associated with the credit card to be validated in the credit card information.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 35, wherein processing the credit card validation reply message further comprises processing ~~is a~~ text message.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 35, further comprising sending the credit card validation reply message via e-mail to the wireless device.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 35, further comprising receiving the credit card information by the gateway from a pager.

Claim 49 (Newly Presented): A method of validating a credit card over a wireless data network, the method comprising:

sending a first credit card validation request message to a wireless communication gateway in communication with a wireless data network from a wireless device in communication with the wireless data network, the gateway configured for processing credit card validation data received from an external network, the first request message including credit card information for identifying a credit card to be validated;

sending a second credit card validation request message and the credit card information from the gateway over the external network in communication with the gateway to a credit card information validation service provider for processing the credit card information;

receiving by the gateway a first credit card validation reply message from the credit card validation service provider over the external network;

sending a second credit card validation reply message from the gateway to the wireless device; and

storing the second credit card validation reply message in a database associated with the gateway.

Claim 50 (Newly Presented): The method of claim 49, further comprising associating a second wireless device with the second credit card validation reply message in a directory structure of the database.